



PLUTUS ACADEMY

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1. Apex Committee for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement: Key Facts

The Apex Committee for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (AIPA) was recently constituted by the Indian government to ensure coordinated response to climate change matters and to keep the country on track towards meeting its climate change obligations under the Paris Agreement, which includes Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). It will act as the national authority for regulating carbon markets within the country.

Apex committee for the implementation of Paris agreement

- The committee was formed under the chairmanship of Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change secretary. The main purpose of forming the committee is to ensure a coordinated response on climate change matters protecting the interests of India.
- The committee will make sure India is on the right track in achieving climate change obligations under the Paris agreement.
- The committee has 17 members, responsible for formulating policies to implement the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).
- The committee will also regularly communicate and report the progress of India's status in achieving its NDC to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- The committee will define the responsibility of different government Ministries to achieve the climate change mitigation and adaptation goals of India.
- Bottom line the committee will act as a national authority in regulating carbon markets in India under the Paris agreement.

Nationally Determined Contributions of India

India had submitted its National Determined Contributions in 2015. The three main goals of India are as follows

- 33% to 35% of reduction in the GDP emission intensity by 2030 as compared to that of 2005 levels
- To create a carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide through forest cover and afforestation programmes.
- To increase the share of non-fossil fuel-based electricity to 40% by 2030.

To be implemented after 2020 period. The Paris Agreement aims to keep the global temperature rise to less than 2 degree Celsius as compared to the pre-industrial levels.

2.What is Boko Haram?

The attack on farm workers in the North Eastern region of Nigeria has left at least 110 dead. The Boko Haram jihadist are blamed for the killing. Around 30 men were beheaded during the attack. The incident is considered as the most violent attack against innocent civilians in 2020.

The attack took place near the Borno state capital Maiduguri in Nigeria

What is the issue?

A terrorist Organisation in Nigeria called Boko Haram has been disturbing the North Eastern region of Nigeria by killing and attacking villagers in the region. The rise of Boko Haram is mainly due to the failure of the Nigerian government to improve the economic conditions of the people in the region.

The southern region was under the influence of British rule and the northern region was under the rule of "Muslim Emirs". The Muslim majority in the north held on to its conservatism. On the other hand, the southern region progressed academically and earned good potential. The Northern region remained illiterate. In this scenario, the discovery of oil in the southern parts of Nigeria boosted its development exponentially.

The North Eastern parts of Nigeria has suffered increased discrimination since the discovery of oil in the south. These discriminations led to the rise of Boko Haram. Boko Haram means Western education is Forbidden.

About Boko Haram

The Boko Haram was formed based on the principles of Salafism. Salafism movement developed within the Sunni Islam. The movement was launched in response to The Western European imperialism.

According to UNICEF, Boko Haram has so far kidnapped more than thousand children since 2013. In 2014 alone Boko Haram was responsible for killing more than 6,644 people.

Boko Haram was founded by Muhammad Yusuf in 2002. He established a religious centre that attracted poor Muslim families from Nigeria and also from neighbouring countries. The main objective of the centre was to create an Islamic state.

3. Avian Influenza outbreak in Japan

The Avian influenza disease was recently discovered at a poultry farm in Hyuga City of Japan. Around 40,000 chickens

It is a highly contagious viral disease that affects birds such as Turkeys, chicken, Guinea fowl. They occasionally infect mammals including humans. The Avian influenza virus is classified into two types based on their surface proteins namely Hemagglutinin and Neuraminidase.

Avian influenza in India

In September 2019, India was declared free from Avian influenza. The status will last only till next outbreak. Lastly India reported an outbreak of Avian influenza in 2017.

H5N1

Among all the known influenza virus, H5N1 is considered to be highly deadly. It was the first Avian influenza virus to infect humans. The first infection of H5N1 occurred in 1997 in Hong Kong. H5N1 naturally occurs in waterfowl. The virus transmits to humans through contact with infected bird faeces, secretion from the mouth or eyes, nasal secretions, etc.

Global Influenza Strategy, 2019-30

The strategy aims to control the spread of the virus and prevent the seasonal influenza. It was launched by the World Health Organisation. The following are the main features of the strategy

- Under the strategy every member country of the World Health Organisation should strengthen the routine health programmes.
- The World Health Organisation recommends flu vaccines to prevent the spread of the disease
- It urges the members to develop more effective and accessible vaccines and antiviral treatment
- The vaccine formulas must be regularly updated because of the mutating behaviour of the virus.

Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS)

It was launched in 1952. It comprises National Influenza Centres and WHO collaborating centres. The system mainly focuses on monitoring the outbreak of potentially pandemic viruses. It is the backbone of the Global alert system for influenza.

in every big farm are being slaughtered and buried. Also, the exports in and around 3 km radius around the infected farms have been restricted. In all around 1.8 million chicken have been culled so far since the outbreak began in September 2020.

The current outbreak that started in September 2020 is considered as the largest outbreak in Japan since 2016. In 2018, Japan faced an outbreak of bird flu and 91,000 chicken were then culled.

4.US Air Quality Index-Highlights

According to the recently released US Air Quality Index, Lahore has once again topped the list of world's most polluted cities in the world. The report says that the particulate matter rating of Lahore was 423. Lahore was followed by New Delhi with a particulate matter rating of 229. Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal ranked third with a particulate matter rating of 178.

What is Air Quality Index?

Air Quality Index is an index that reports quality of air on a daily basis. The index helps to measure how air pollution affects the health of the people living in and around the environment for a short period of time. The Air Quality Index is calculated based on five major air pollutants such as ground level Ozone, Sulphur Dioxide, carbon monoxide, Nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter.

Higher the level of Air Quality Index greater is the level of air pollution.

What are the categories of Air Quality Index?

- If Air Quality Index is between 0 and 50 the quality is categorised as Good and it has minimal impacts.
- If the Air Quality Index is between 51 and 100, the air quality is categorised as satisfactory. Satisfactory air quality levels may cause minor breathing difficulties to sensitive people.
- If Air Quality Index is between 101 and 200, it is categorised as moderately polluted. Moderately polluted air quality might cause lung diseases such as asthma.
- If Air Quality Index is between 201 and 300, it is categorised as poor. Poor Air Quality Index causes heart diseases.

- If the Air Quality Index is between 301 and 400, it is categorised as a very poor. Very poor air quality might cause respiratory illness and prolonged exposure might lead to lung and heart diseases.
- If the Air Quality Index is between 401 and 500, it is categorised as severe. A severe air quality will cause respiratory issues in healthy people and will make it difficult for them to continue even light physical activities.

The above categories of air quality standards are set by the central pollution control board of India.

5. Duare Sarkar: West Bengal New Public Outreach Campaign

"Duare Sarkar" outreach programme was launched by the Bengal Government. Under the programme, camps are to be organised at local body levels. In cities the camps are to be organised by corporations and at village level it is to be organised by Gram Panchayats. The Local Bodies will host camps between December 1, 2020 and January 30, 2020. Through these camps the State Government will take the Government Services to the doorstep of the Bengal people.

In simple words, the people of Bengal can avail the benefits of different Government schemes through the camps being set up under the programme. The flagship schemes included under the program are Kanyashree, Sikshashree and Khadya Sathi. It also includes other schemes such as Rupashree, Taposili Bondhu, Akhyashree and MGNREGA.

Duare Sarkar means Government at Doorstep.

What are the schemes included in Duare Sarkar Campaign?

- The Kanyashree is a cash transfer programme that aims to retain girls in school and prevent early marriage.
- The Khadya Sathi program aims to make sure that 90% of the population comes under food security.
- The Sikshashree programme offers a one-time grant to the scheduled tribes and scheduled caste students studying from class 5 to class 8.
- Under the Rupashree program a one-time financial grant of 25, 000 rupees is provided to economically weaker sections of the society during their daughter's marriage.
- The Jai Johar scheme works for the betterment of the scheduled tribes.
- The Taposili Bondhu is pension scheme for the scheduled caste people.
- The Akhyashree programme provide scholarships to students belonging to minority communities in the state

Apart from these schemes, the campaign will also focus on schemes related to pensions, widow, persons with disabilities.

What is the plan?

The camps being set up under the programme will deliver the benefits of different government schemes and services. The Standard of Operating procedure for the programme was prepared by the West Bengal Government. The camp is to be held in four phases. The experience of one phase is to be used to deliver the services in the subsequent phases.

6.Thai Mangur: Banned Catfish of India

Thai Mangur is a catfish that was banned by the National Green Tribunal as it was harming the local ecosystem and the consumers' health. It is favoured by the cultivators due to its ability to feed on anything and survive in hostile conditions. It also has high demand because it is cheaper when compared to other seafood. Recently, thousands of tons of this banned catfish were found to be illegally bred in over 125 artificial ponds in rural Thane, Maharashtra.

Why was Thai Mangur banned?

In 2000, the National Green Tribunal banned the cultivation of Thai Mangur. This was mainly because the fish poses threats to other fishes in an ecosystem. According to a study, the Thai Mangur is responsible for 70% decline of native fish species of India. Also, the fish in certain states of India such as Maharashtra is being cultivated in unhygienic conditions posing health risks to the consumers. Thus, the National Green Tribunal banned the cultivation of Thai Mangur as it began to pose threats to the people and environment.

Why is Thai Mangur cultivated illegally?

The State Government of Maharashtra so far has destroyed more than 32 tonnes of Thai Mangur. In September 2020, the Uttarakhand State Government pulled up several fish farmers for cultivating Thai Mangur illegally.

In spite of several legal measures and bans, the species is being cultivated illegally and its sales are popular mainly for its surviving capabilities. The fish can grow even in muddy waters between the rains. Also, it grows three feet to five feet weighing three to four kilograms in just two to three months. It is a freshwater air breathing fish. It has the ability to wiggle on dry land to find food or suitable environment. It lives in stagnant or slow-moving waters. It has an omnivorous diet, ability to survive on land and ability to hide in vegetation. These characteristics make the cultivation of the fish easy, highly profitable and economical for farming.

7.Hornbill Festival: Key Facts

The Hornbill Festival, which is called the 'Festivals of Festivals', is a 10-day annual cultural fest of Nagaland that showcases the rich and diverse Naga ethnicity through folk dances, traditional music, local cuisine, handicraft, art workshops etc. In a first, the 21st edition of this festival is to go digital from December 1 to 5 amid the coronavirus concerns. The start of this festival (December 1) marks the Nagaland statehood day.

Every year the Hornbill festival is celebrated between December 1 and December 10 in the northeast region and in the state of Nagaland. The festival is named after the Indian Hornbill Bird. It is a large and colourful forest bird. The festival is named after the bird as it is displayed in folklore of most of the tribals in the state of Nagaland.

Economic potential

The festival has contributed significant tourism revenue to the north eastern part of India. This is mainly because the Hornbill festival provides an insight into the different Tribes of Nagaland. It provides a colourful mixture of craft, dancers, sports, religious ceremonies and food fairs. Naga Morungs exhibition is also organised during the festival.

Naga Morungs

The Naga Morungs are also called the Nagas. They are the ethnic groups native to North Western Myanmar and North Eastern India. These groups have similar culture and form the majority of population in Nagaland and Naga self-administered zone. The Naga self-administered zone is located in the Naga Hills of Sagaing region of Myanmar.

Other Naga Festival

Apart from the Hornbill festival, the other popular festival of the Nagas is the Lui Ngai Ni. It is the seed sowing festival that is celebrated by the Naga Tribes of Manipur. It is celebrated in the month of February to mark the beginning of spring season.

Hornbill

Hornbill bird is common in tropical and subtropical Asia, Africa and Melanesia.

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